



For Immediate Release
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Media Advisory

Scientists to Present Land-Use Study of Willamette River Basin Research Conducted to Assist with Future Planning

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Corvallis, OR..... By the year 2050, the Willamette River Basin is projected to double in population to 3.9 million. Under these projections, 38 percent more land will be developed for urban use and there will be a 30 percent increase in densities in rural residential areas, based on existing growth management plans and trends.

These are some of the key features of how land use could change in the river basin as described in a study by the Pacific Northwest Ecosystem Research Consortium, funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's research facilities in Corvallis, OR. Scientists will present the land-use research at the Willamette Valley Livability Forum on Thursday, Nov. 4, from 9:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Oregon State Fairgrounds, Cascade Hall, in Salem. Media representatives are invited to attend.

The land-use study entitled, *Plan Trend 2050 Scenario*, depicts land use and land cover in the river basin -- where 68 percent of the population of Oregon lives -- based on existing land management plans and continuation of recent trends in zoning, development, and agricultural and forestry practices. The land-use scenario was developed by the Consortium involving scientists at EPA, Oregon State University, University of Oregon, University of Washington, and U.S. Forest Service. The Consortium is working with public groups to develop options for future land and water use in the river basin.

Two additional scenarios that will depict land-use patterns under different management strategies are being developed by the Consortium and will be completed by June 2000. Consortium scientists are working to evaluate the likely effects of changes in land use on important ecological resources and water availability. Other groups, working cooperatively with the Consortium and Willamette Valley Livability Forum, are evaluating the effects of land use changes on transportation, public infrastructure costs, and fiscal impacts on the agricultural and wood products industries.

The Pacific Northwest Ecosystem Research Consortium was created to collaboratively develop a joint research program between regional researchers and EPA scientists to understand the ecological consequences of possible societal decisions related to changes in human populations and ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest and to develop transferable tools to support management of ecosystems.

For more information on *Plan Trend 2050 Scenario*, contact: Joan Baker at EPA's research facilities in Corvallis (541-754-4517); David Hulse (University of Oregon, 541-346-3672) or Stan Gregory (Oregon State University, 541-737-1951). The Pacific Northwest Ecosystem Research Consortium's web site is located at <http://www.orst.edu/dept/pnw-erc/>.